shall be spent in rural and remote areas on both public access telephones or community telephones meant for public use and individual household telephones in net high-cost rural/remote areas. The implementation of USO will be divided into two clearly identifiable streams.

Stream I: Provision of Public Telecom and Information Services.This includes:

a. Installation of VPTs in the remaining villages (over and above the villages identified as per the 1991 census).

b. Provision of additional rural community phones after achieving the target of one VPT in every villages.

c. Replacement of VPTs installed before 01.04.2002.

d. Upgradation of VPTs to Public Telecom and Info Centres (PTICs).

e. Installation of High Speed PTICs (HPTICs).

Stream II: Provision of household telephones in Net High Cost areas (rural/remote). Stream I will be given priority in respect of disbursement of funds over Stream II.

(c) The Universal Service Support Policy, on the recommendations of TRAI, as accepted by the Government, has taken effect from 01.04.2002. Guidelines in this regard have also been issued.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Karnataka's treasury computerisation project

3816. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has initiated treasury computerisation project covering sub-treasuries by connecting them to the Central Communications System through VSATS, if so, the details therof;

(b) whether the State Government has requested the Central

Government to fund the networking component of the above project as a pilot project; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka has initiated comprehensive treasury computerisation project covering all the Districts and Sub-Treasuries. All these 215 District Treasuries/Sub-Treasuries (31 and 184 respectively) are proposed to be connected to Network Management Centre at Bangalore through V-SAT under the project.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has received a proposal from Government of Karnataka for financial assistance of Rs. 47.4 crores for computerisation of their Treasuries. This proposal has been examined by DIT and keeping in view of the existing guidelines for supporting pilot projects in this area, it has advised Government of Karnataka to reframe the project proposal.

State Government, however, have been provided with financial assistance of Rs. 16 crores under the Eleventh Finance Commission Scheme for the upgradation of infrastructure of the various departments involved in fiscal administration (revenue earning departments, treasuries and accounts departments), being administered by Ministry of Finance.

National Informatics Centre (NIC), under DIT has also been providing technical support to Government of Karnataka, since 1992, on application software development, training and maintenance for computerisation of their treasuries.

KU Band and DTH

3817. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the difference between the KU band and the DTH;